

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) The lye container according to Claim-12 23, wherein the rear front section (5) of the opening (4) ~~of the radial extension (3) in the plug direction of the pin (8)~~ has a diameter which increases from inside to outside.

14-18. Canceled.

19. (Currently Amended) The lye container according to Claim 42 27, wherein the dowel (13) ~~in the axial through hole (10)~~ is held at a first end of the axial through hole by means of the fixing ribs (12) before it is moved along the axial through hole to a second end of the axial through hole adjacent the outer end of the pin ~~its driving in the rear access of the axial opening (10)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The lye container according to Claim 42 19, wherein ~~the rear access of the axial opening (10)~~ the first end of the axial through hole has an entry section (14) having a diameter larger than that of the dowel (13).

21. (Currently Amended) The lye container according to Claim 42 23, wherein ~~the radial extension (3, 3a) at the rear end of the pin (8)~~ has a concentric protective projection is formed on the second container portion around a

first end of the axial through hole that is opposite the outer end of the pin, the concentric protective projection protecting the dowel when it is held at the first end of the axial through hole ~~(14) for the dowel (13).~~

22. Canceled.

23. (Currently Amended) A lye container for a washing machine, the lye container comprising:

a first container portion and a second container portion removably connected to one another, the first container portion having a first radial extension having a front section facing the second container portion and a rear section facing away from the second container portion;

an opening extending through the first radial extension and having an inner diameter, the diameter near the rear section being greater than the diameter near the front section;

the second container portion having a second radial extension being removably engagable with the first radial extension, the engagement of the first and second radial extensions helping to create a seal between the first and second container portions;

a pin extending in an axial direction from the second radial extension to an outer end and having an outer diameter, an axial through hole, and longitudinal grooves extending along the pin, the maximum outer diameter of the pin being greater than the minimum inner diameter of the opening, the pin being at least partially disposed within the opening when the second radial extension engages the first radial extension; and

a dowel removably disposed within the axial through hole and helping maintain the second radial extension in engagement with the first radial extension.

24. (Currently Amended) The lye container according to Claim 23, wherein the first radial extension includes stops formed on the inner diameter of the opening extending inwardly near the rear section of the opening , the stops limiting an insertion depth of the pin in the opening.
25. (Previously Presented) The lye container according to Claim 23, wherein the dowel expands the outer end of the pin outwardly to engage the opening.
26. (Previously Presented) The lye container according to Claim 23, wherein the opening near the rear section defines a truncated cone.
27. (Previously Presented) The lye container according to Claim 23, wherein the axial through hole include fixing ribs to help retain the dowel in the desired position.
28. (Previously Presented) The lye container according to Claim 23, wherein the first container portion includes multiple first radial extensions having openings and the second container portion includes multiple second radial extensions having pins, each pin being aligned with a corresponding opening.
- 29-30. Canceled.
31. (New) A lye container for a washing machine, the lye container comprising:
a first container portion having a first radial extension with first and second sides, wherein an opening passes through the first radial extension from the first side of the first radial extension to the second side

of the first radial extension, and wherein an inner diameter of the opening increases from an interim portion of the opening to the second side of the first radial extension;

a second container portion having a second radial extension with first and second sides, wherein the first side of the second radial extension is removably joined to the first side of the first radial extension to form the lye container, wherein a pin having expandable sidewalls extends from the first side of the second radial extension, the pin having an outer diameter that is larger than a minimum inner diameter of the opening on the first radial extension, the pin being at least partially disposed within the opening when the second radial extension engages the first radial extension, and wherein an axial through hole extends from the first side of the second radial extension, through the pin, to the second side of the second radial extension; and

a dowel that is removably disposed within the axial through hole, wherein when the dowel is disposed within the pin, the dowel expands the sidewalls of the pin outward so that they engage the inner diameter of the opening in the first radial extension to fix the second container portion to the first container portion.

32. (New) The lye container of claim 31, wherein the dowel is held in the axial through hole at the second side of the second radial extension before the second container portion is removably joined to the first container portion, and wherein the dowel is moved along the axial through hole to a position inside the pin to removably join the second container portion to the first container portion
33. (New) The lye container according to claim 32, wherein a protective projection extends from the second side of the second radial extension,

the protective projection surrounding the dowel when it is held in the axial through hole at the second side of the second radial extension.

34. (New) The lye container of claim 33, wherein the end of the axial through hole adjacent the second side of the second radial extension is shaped like a truncated cone, with the largest diameter portion of the truncated cone forming the opening of the axial through hole at the second side of the second radial extension.
35. (New) The lye container of claim 34, further comprising a plurality of insertion stops formed on the first radial extension, the insertion stops limiting an amount that the pin of the second radial extension can be inserted into the opening of the first radial extension.
36. (New) The lye container of claim 35, wherein the plurality of insertion stops are projections formed on the inner diameter of the opening, the projections contacting an end of the pin when it is inserted into the opening.
37. (New) The lye container of claim 31, further comprising a plurality of projections formed on inner diameter of the opening of the first radial extension, the projections contacting an end of the pin as the pin is inserted into the opening to limit an amount that the pin can be inserted into the opening.
38. (New) The lye container of claim 37, wherein the plurality of projections also contact an end of the dowel when the dowel is moved along the axial through hole to limit an amount that the dowel can travel along the axial through hole.

39. (New) The lye container of claim 31, wherein when the dowel is disposed within the pin, the entire shaft of the dowel is accommodated within the axial through hole.
40. (New) The lye container of claim 39, further comprising projection stops that limit the amount that the dowel can travel along the axial through hole such that when the dowel is moved to a position inside the pin, the dowel is prevented from projecting out of the pin.